

Morphology Exercises

Simple vs. Complex Words

1. In the following, identify which of the lexemes are simple and which ones are complex. Further identify the bound morphemes.

Lexeme	simple / complex?	stem/root/base	bound morphemes
impossibility	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	poss-	im-, -ible-, -ity
overrated	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	rate	over-, -ed(*)
replacement	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	place	re-, -ment
snowman	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	man (+snow)	
friendships	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	friend	-ship, -s*
undertaker	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	take	under-, -er
crack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	crack	
magically	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	magic	-al, -ly
ingratitude	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	grat-	in-, -itude
rhinoceros	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	rhinoceros	
unimaginable	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	imagine	un-, -able
railway station	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	station (+rail + way)	
unquestionably	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	question	un-, -able, -ly
good-looking	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	look (+ good)	-ing
halfings	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	half	-ling, -s*

* inflectional suffixes, the other affixes are derivational

For discussion:

refuse	<input type="checkbox"/> ?	fuse (not a free morpheme in English)	-re
unlockable	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 meanings: not to be locked vs. impossible to lock	un-, -able
criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	criteri-	-a (Greek plural)
ungainly	<input type="checkbox"/> ?	gain not a free morpheme in this usage	(un- and -ly appear to be bound morphemes, but are they?)
destination	<input type="checkbox"/> ?	stin ?	de-, -ation

Affixation

1. Find examples that use the following prefixes:

a/an-	amoral, anaerobic	ab-	abnormal	anti-	anti-intellectual
counter-	counterproductive	dis-	disloyal	for(e)-	forgo
in- / etc.	immoral, unacceptable	mal-	maladjusted	meta-	meta-linguistic
non-	non-conformist	out-	outmoded	over-	overbearing
pre-	predestined	pseudo-	pseudo-intellectual	re-	redo, recall
un-	unfair, undo	under-	underrated	up-	uplift, upkeep

2. Find examples that use the following suffixes. Mark where the result is a different word class from the unaffixed root:

laugh	-able*	economic	-al	claim	-ant *
regist(r)	-ar *	li(e) peddler	-ar/* -er	litera budget	-ary*
certify	-(c)ate*	south	-bound*	patri	-cide
star	-dom	employ	-ee*	strength	-en*
depend	-ence*	correspond	-ent *	employ	-er*
Dylan	-esque*	organ	-ic *	val(ue)	-id*
gentry	-(i)fy *	project serv(e)	-ile *	intend	-(t)ion *
marginal	-ise/-ize*	freak	-ish (*)	Stalin	-ism*
Trotsky	-ite *	inept	-itude*	stupid	-ity*
abort	-ive *	clue relent	-less*	child	-like*
young	-ling*	move	-ment*	kind	-ness*
contradict	-ory*	grand(i)	-ose	humour	-ous*
heaven	-ward*	clock	-wise*	nerd	-y *

* change in word class

3. With the following roots create an overview of possible derivations as for grace.

check a good dictionary!

- act

action, actionable,

actor, actress

acting

active, activist, activism, activate

actual, actually, actuality, actualise,

react (ive, ion, etc), reactionary, overreaction

proactive, inactive, overactive, hyperactive,

adjectives with -ly

etc.

- harmony

harmonious, harmonium

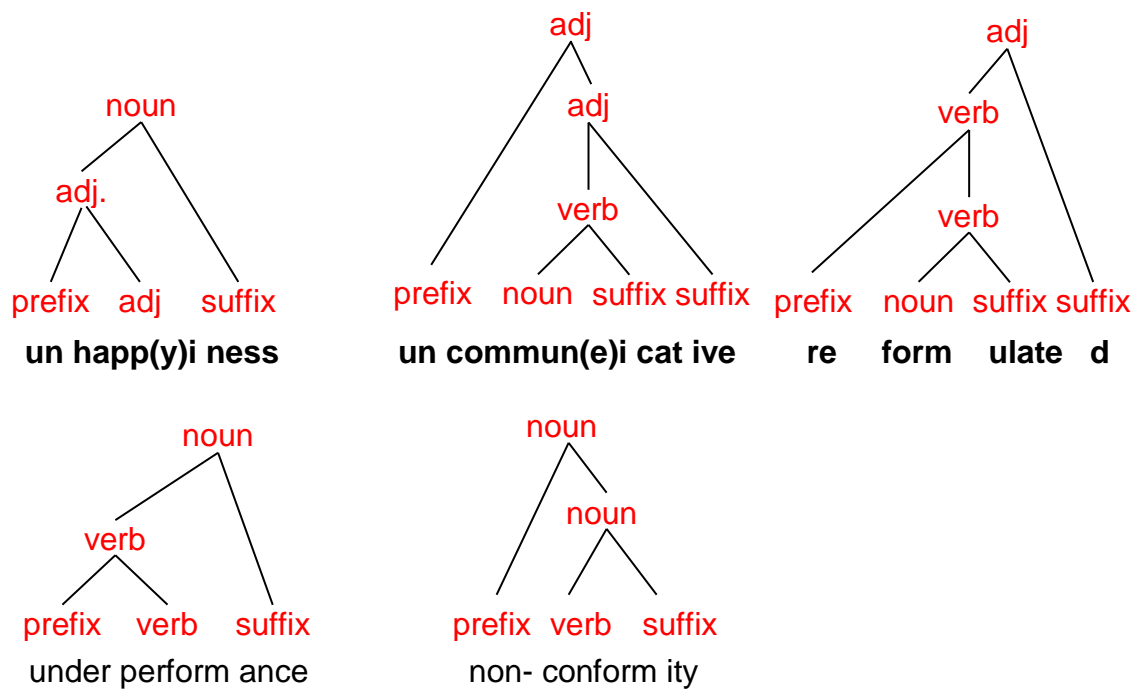
disharmony, disharmonious,

harmonise
harmonic, disharmonic, enharmonic, harmonica

- communicate
- communication, miscommunication, meta-communication, non-communication**
- communicative, uncommunicative**
- communicational**
- communicable**
- communicator, non-communicator**
- communicant**
- communion**

4. With structure trees like the one fig. 5-3 show the sequence of affixation for

- unhappiness
- uncommunicative
- reformulated
- underperformance
- non-conformity



5. What are the following bound morphemes? If a bound morpheme results in a change in word class, say from which to which word class the change takes place.

bound morpheme	type of affix	change of word class?	if yes, original word class	resulting word class
-able	suffix	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	verb	adjective
-s	inflectional suffix	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
huckle- berry	cranberry morpheme	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
-‘ve	clitic	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
-‘s	clitic	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
over-	prefix	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
-ies	inflectional suffix (allomorph)	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no		
-iousness	2 suffixes: -(i)ous -ness	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	noun ambition adj.	adjective ambitious noun

Compounding

1. Find examples for the following types of compounds.

N + N	adj+V	N+V	Prep+Prep
snowman dining-room train station	whitewash blacklist short-change	sidestep manhandle window shop(ing)	without into onto

2. What type of compound are these (5.4.4.2)? Determine the word-class and the heads, if they have one.

compound	meaning	type of compound	head	word-class
breakfast	first meal of the day	endocentric	fast	noun/verb
criminal justice	legal system dealing with crime	endocentric	justice	noun
crowd-pleaser	person, performance or product that pleases the	endocentric	pleaser	noun

	public			
father-in-law	father of a spouse	endocentric but left-headed	father	noun
flagship	most important element in a group or line of products	exocentric	(ship) but it isn't a naval vessel	noun
manhandle	move by using force	endocentric	handle	verb
man-o-war	warship	exocentric	?	noun
newspaper	daily news in paper format	endocentric	paper	noun
page turner	very exciting book to read	exocentric	(turner)	noun
pickpocket	person stealing from passers-by	exocentric	?	noun
poorhouse	house for the poor	endocentric	house	noun
scarecrow	construction in human shape meant to scare away birds	exocentric	?	noun
short-change	to give too little back	endocentric	change	verb

Word Formation

1. Determine which word formation process is at work in the following examples.

lexeme	meaning	word formation process
backformation	formation of a word by manipulation of perceived affixes	compounding of <i>back</i> and <i>formation</i>
bagonize	worry about one's luggage at an airport	blend of <i>bag</i> and <i>agonize</i>
bartend	to serve in a bar	backformation of <i>bartender</i>
DHL	company offering a courier service	alphabetism
enthuse	to be very enthusiastic about something	backformation from <i>enthusiastic</i>
EU	European Union	alphabetism
exam	test to determine if course work has been learnt	clipping from <i>examination</i>
hanky-panky	unsavoury or dishonest behaviour, often of a sexual nature	reduplication
harmful	to cause or create harm	suffixation of <i>harm</i> + <i>ful</i>
infotainment	information presented in an entertaining format	blend of <i>information</i> and <i>entertainment</i>
nitty-gritty	the basic facts, intricate (slightly	reduplication

lexeme	meaning	word formation process
	unpleasant) details	
pampers	a type of nappies/diapers	conversion of <i>to pamper</i> could be a coinage
PDF	document format	alphabetism
pop (music)	popular commercially viable music	clipping
orientated	focused on, directed towards	backformation from <i>orientation</i>
restructure	to arrange differently, to reorganise, usually a company or institution	Affixation prefixation
sitcom	amusing television series	clippings of <i>situation</i> and <i>comedy</i>
snafu	chaotic, but unfortunately not infrequent situation “situation normal all fucked up ”	acronym
to DHL	to send something by courier	conversion
to PDF	to convert a document into this format	conversion